



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

MAY 12, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUGAR CREEK, INDEPENDENCE RESIDENTS INDICTED IN METH CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two Sugar Creek, Mo., residents and an Independence, Mo., resident were indicted by a federal grand jury today for conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.

Shawn M. Munkirs, 32, and **Tracey Israel-Strobbles**, 42, both of Sugar Creek, and **Nicholas J. Goergen**, 20, of Independence, were charged in a three-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Munkirs**, **Israel-Strobbles** and **Goergen** conspired to distribute 50 grams or more of pure methamphetamine between Feb. 1, 2004, and March 13, 2004, in Jackson County, Mo.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Munkirs** and **Goergen** aided and abetted each other in the possession of a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime on March 11, 2004. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for any person to be in possession of any firearm while engaged in a drug trafficking crime. The indictment alleges that **Munkirs** and **Goergen** were in possession of a Companhia Brasileira De Cartuchos .410 shotgun while also conspiring to distribute methamphetamine.

Count Three of the federal indictment alleges that **Munkirs** and **Israel-Strobbles** aided and abetted each other in possessing with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of pure methamphetamine on March 12, 2004.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce Rhoades. It was investigated by the Sugar Creek, Mo., Police Department, the Jackson County, Mo., Drug Task Force, the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department, the Metro Meth Drug Task Force and the Merriam, Kan., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow